

7. (Once Amended) A fluid filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein the filter element is annular and the support includes an annular end wall extending around one end of the filter element, the annular end wall closing the drain outlet and the loading element loading the support axially.

10. (Once Amended) A fluid filter assembly according to claim 8, wherein the valve element is retained on the annular end wall of the support.

11. (Once Amended) A fluid filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein the fluid outlet is disposed adjacent the drain outlet and has a rim protruding into the housing beyond the drain outlet.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. The amendments are made to correct multiple dependencies and do not change the scope of the invention.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

3. (Once Amended) A fluid filter assembly according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the housing comprises a base and a removable cap fitted together, the drain outlet being formed in the base.

5. (Once Amended) A fluid assembly according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein the support is retained on the removable cap.

7. (Once Amended) A fluid filter assembly according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the filter element is annular and the support includes an annular end wall extending around one end of the filter element, the annular end wall closing the drain outlet and the loading element loading the support axially.

10. (Once Amended) A fluid filter assembly according to claim 8 [or claim 9], wherein the valve element is retained on the annular end wall of the support.

11. (Once Amended) A fluid filter assembly according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the fluid outlet is disposed adjacent the drain outlet and has a rim protruding into the housing beyond the drain outlet.